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INCOMING TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 SAN SA 09800 241446Z 7218
ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 SY-05 HA-06 L-03 TRSE-00
PM-09 PA-01 MCT-02 SAL-01 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02
/080 W

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R 241430Z DEC 81
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7205
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMBASSY MANAGUA 5651
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PAN/INTAFF

POL 13-11

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 9800

E. O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ES
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE UPDATE: TWO OLD PROBLEMS RESURFACE

1. SAN SALVADOR'S "EL DIARIO DE HOY" OF 12/21/81 REPORTS UPON TWO OLD VIOLENCE PROBLEMS THE LIKES OF WHICH HAD NOT BEEN REPORTED FOR MORE THAN A MONTH:

--EIGHT BODIES WERE REPORTEDLY RECOVERED AT THE EL PLAYON LAVA BED IN LA LIBERTAD DEPARTMENT. IN NOVEMBER, THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS WIDELY REPORTED THE USE OF EL PLAYDN AS A CLANDESTINE BODY DUMP FOR APPARENT VICTIMS OF EXTREMIST VIOLENCE (REFTEL). THE GDES ANNOUNCED IN NOVEMBER THAT IT WOULD TAKE ACTIONS TO ENSURE THAT EL PLAYON NOT BE USED AS A DOBY DUMP IN THE FUTURE. THIS IS THE FIRST REPORT OF CORPSES IN EL PLAYDN SINCE THAT ANNOUNCEMENT. UNLIKE IN PREVIOUS INCIDENTS, THESE EIGHT CORPSES WERE LEGALLY IDENTIFIED BY THE LOCAL JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND SUBSEQUENTLY BURIED.

--FIVE DECAPITATED CORPSES WERE DISCOVERED IN SANTA ANA DEPARTMENT ON 12/21/81. SANTA ANA WAS THE SITE OF MANY OF THE DECAPITATIONS THAT OCCURRED IN WESTERN EL SALVADOR DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST. THSE DECAPITATIONS WERE WIDELY REPORTED IN THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS. THIS IS THE FIRST LARGE SCALE DECAPITATION INCIDENT THAT HAS COME TO THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION IN MORE THAN THREE MONTHS.

2. THESE LOCAL REPORTS MAY GENERATE INTERNATIONAL PRESS INTEREST. WE ALERT THE DEPARTMENT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER PRESS INQUIRIES AND COVERAGE IN THE U. S. WE WILL INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF ANY CONTINUED INCIDENTS IN OUR REGULAR WEEKLY REPORTS ON VIOLENCE.
BLEAKLEY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY R. Valas DATE 10/14/82
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